

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-43. (cancelled)

44. (New) A wheel assembly for a mobile irrigation tower, the wheel assembly coupling to a mobile irrigation tower and coupling to a tire assembly of the mobile irrigation system, the wheel assembly comprising:

a frame having two opposite arms, each arm having first and second ends, the two arms being opposite and generally parallel to each other, an interconnecting member being disposed between and connecting to the two arms at the first ends of the arms to form a generally U-shaped support frame;

the opposite arms coupled to an axle assembly for the tire assembly so that the tire assembly is received and rotatably mounted in between the two arms;

a gear box mounted on one arm and directly coupled to the axle assembly;

the U-shaped support frame coupled to the tower to distribute the weight from the tower evenly across the opposite sides of the tire assembly via the opposite arms of the support frame; and

wherein the axle assembly is mounted on the opposite arms at a location so that a tire of the tire assembly extends below the second ends of the opposite arms and the tire assembly contacts and elevates the support frame off the ground.

45. (New) The wheel assembly of claim 44, wherein the interconnecting member comprises at least two telescoping members being adjustable so as to change the width of the U-shaped frame to correspond to the width of a desired tire assembly.

46. (New) The wheel assembly of claim 45, wherein the width of the support frame adjusts to a tire assembly having side by side dual wheels coupled to the axle assembly.
47. (New) The wheel assembly of claim 45, wherein the width of the support frame adjusts to a tire assembly including at least one wheel having a belt with traction elements that surround the entire wheel.
48. (New) The wheel assembly of claim 44, wherein the two arms are horizontally disposed relative to the ground.
49. (New) The wheel assembly of claim 44, wherein the two arms are vertically disposed relative to the ground.
50. (New) The wheel assembly of claim 44, further comprising a force transfer member coupled between the support frame and the tower for transferring forces generated by the tire assembly to the tower.
51. (New) The wheel assembly of claim 44, further comprising a swivel support tube telescopically coupled to the tower, allowing the wheel assembly to swivel around the tower.
52. (New) The wheel assembly of claim 44, wherein the wheel assembly further comprises an adjustable connection between the tower and the tire assembly provided by at least one spring.
53. (New) A self-propelled mobile irrigation system, comprising:
 - an elongate boom;
 - a plurality of downwardly extending towers, each individual tower associated with
 - a wheel assembly and a tire assembly received within the wheel assembly;

the wheel assembly comprising a frame having two opposite arms, each arm having first and second ends, the two arms being opposite and generally parallel to each other, an interconnecting member being disposed between and connecting to the two arms at the first ends of the arms to form a generally U-shaped support frame;

the opposite arms coupled to an axle assembly for the tire assembly so that the tire assembly is received and rotatably mounted in between the two arms;

a gear box mounted on one arm and directly coupled to the axle assembly;

the U-shaped support frame coupled to the tower to distribute the weight from the tower evenly across the opposite sides of the tire assembly via the opposite arms of the support frame; and

wherein the axle assembly is mounted on the opposite arms at a location so that a tire of the tire assembly extends below the second ends of the opposite arms and the tire assembly contacts and elevates the support frame off the ground.